



November 7, 2005



## **Armed career criminal is sentenced to 15 years in federal prison for a firearms offense**

A federal judge has sentenced **Gary W. Miller**, 46, most recently of Attleboro, Massachusetts, to 15 years in prison for being a felon in possession of a firearm. Westerly Police arrested Miller in February after an armed standoff at a relative's home.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the sentence, which Chief U.S. District Court Judge Ernest C. Torres imposed on November 4 in U.S. District Court, Providence. Because of Miller's criminal history, which dates back to 1977 and includes at least six felony convictions, Judge Torres sentenced him as an armed career criminal.

In June, Miller pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Zechariah Chafee said that the government could prove that Miller was in possession of a .357 caliber revolver in February.

On February 26, Westerly Police went to a house on Governor Avenue, acting on information that Miller might be at that house with a gun. There they confronted Miller, who was holding a revolver to his head. After a three-hour standoff, during which Captain Lauren Matarese negotiated with him, Miller surrendered unarmed and the police retrieved the gun.

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Miller's prior convictions, in Connecticut and Rhode Island, include burglary, breaking and entering, and drug offenses. Under federal law, an armed felon who has been convicted of three prior violent felonies or drug-trafficking offenses is considered an armed career criminal and is subject to a minimum sentence of 15 years in prison.

**The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Westerly Police, and North Providence Police** investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Zechariah Chafee prosecuted it federally as part of **Project Safe Neighborhoods**, a Department of Justice initiative against gun crimes. Under Project Safe Neighborhoods, the U.S. Attorney's Office, working with ATF, the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office, and other agencies, aggressively prosecutes federal firearms offenses in an effort to incarcerate those responsible for gun violence and deter others from committing gun crimes. Since 2001, federal firearms prosecutions in Rhode Island have more than doubled and gun offenders have been sentenced to a total of more than 650 years in federal prison.

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